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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re of Applicant Tadahiro Ohmi et al. Serial No.: 09/581,878 Filing Date: June 19, 2000 Title: SEMICONDUCTOR

Art Group: 7595

Examiner: Luz L. Alejandro Mulero

RESPONSE

Mail Stop AF HON. COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MANUFACTURING APPARATUS

Sir:

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Responsive to the Final Office Action dated April 22, 2003. having a due date of July 22, 2003, Applicant hereby submits the following Amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending and rejected in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are amended hereby. Applicants submit that none of the changes set forth herewith constitute new matter or raisc new issues.

Support in the specification for the amendments to claims 1 and 2 can be found, e.g., in Fig. 2 (i.e., vacuum vessel bottom plate 102 and wafer stage 105) and at page 10, line 26, through page 11, line 2. Applicant further submits that no new issues are raised as the terminology "fixedly provided" is within the scope and meaning of "substantially constant vertical position"